

Message Text

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S E C R E T GENEVA 8688

NODIS/CHEROKEE

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM SCHAUFLELE

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, RH, UK

SUBJ: RHODESIAN CONFERENCE: NOV 3 MEETING WITH RICHARD

1. I JOINED RICHARD, DUFF AND GRENNAN THIS MORNING
AT 9:00 A.M. TO DISCUSS THE RESULTS OF THE INTER-
DELEGATION MEETING OF NOV 2.

2. RICHARD CONFIRMED SMITH'S ACCOUNT OF THE
PREVIOUS DAY'S MEETING AND SAID THAT WHILE SMITH HAD
ADOPTED AN EXTREMELY RIGID POSITION AT THE OUTSET
OF THE MEETING, ONCE HENRY STEEL HAD TABLED HIS
CONSTITUTIONAL AND ELECTORAL SCHEDULE SMITH BECAME
MUCH MORE REASONABLE AND THE MEETING SETTLED
INTO A FRUITFUL DISCUSSION OF THE ISSUES INVOLVED WITH
AFRICANS AND SMITH ACTUALLY TALKING TO EACH OTHER OVER THE TABLE.

3. THE AFRICANS HAD ARGUED IN FAVOR OF A 12 MONTH
PERIOD BUT AGREED TO EXAMINE THE STEEL SCHEDULE
AND RECONVENE AT AN EXPERT LEVEL THE MORNING OF NOV 3.
THE CHIEFS OF DELEGATION WILL RECONVENE IN THE AFTERNOON.
THERE WAS NO DISCUSSION OF THE QUESTION OF MAJORITY
RULE AND THE FRANCHISE, AND RICHARD INTENDS TO KEEP
THAT QUESTION OFF THE AGENDA.

4. SMITH, DAVID SMITH AND SQUIRES CALLED ON
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RICHARD FOR AN HOUR AND A HALF IN THE EVENING. THE

SESSION WAS AFFABLE AND FRUITFUL. RICHARD CONTINUED TO PRESS ON SMITH THE URGENCY HE HAD ATTACHED TO PINNING DOWN THE DATE FOR INDEPENDENCE, AND SMITH AND HIS PARTY DISCUSSED THE QUESTION IN A RELAXED AND REASONABLE WAY. RICHARD CONCLUDES THAT THE RHODESIANS MAY WELL AGREE ON A DATE BUT HE IS NOT SURE WHAT NEGOTIATING INSTRUCTIONS SMITH WILL LEAVE FOR SQUIRES AND VAN DER BYL. SMITH ASSURED RICHARD HE COULD RETURN TO GENEVA IN 24 HOURS.

5. THE NEXT ITEM ON THE CONFERNECE AGENDA, ACCORDING TO RICHARD, IS THE STRUCTURE AND FUNCTIONS OF THE INTERIM GOVERNMENT. HE HAS REQUESTED PAPER FROM EACH OF THE AFRICAN DELEGATIONS WHICH HE PLANS TO CIRCULATE TO THE OTHER DELEGATIONS FOR COMMENTS. HE DOES NOT THINK SMITH WILL PROVIDE A PAPER AT THIS STAGE. MUZOREWA HAS SUBMITTED A DOCUMENT FOR RICHARD'S PRIVATE REVIEW IN WHICH HE ARGUED FOR A DELAY IN THE CONFERENCE FOR THREE MONTHS WHILE ELECTIONS ARE ORGANIZED. THE MUZOREWA PAPER SUGGESTS RICHARD PERSONALLY SUPERVISE THE ELECTIONS AND RECONVENE THE CONFERENCE THEREAFTER.

6. I WAS IMPRESSED WITH RICHARD'S DESCRIPTION OF HOW HE INTENDS TO PROCEED. IT IS THE INTENTION OF THE BRITISH DELEGATION TO ARRIVE AT A CONCLUSION WHICH WILL STAY WITHIN THE LIMITS OF ANNEX C. THE FIVE POINTS REMAIN ON THE TABLE AS A BASIS FOR DISCUSSION AND IN FACT EVEN THOUGH THEY ARE NOT FORMALLY ACCEPTED, AS SUCH THE FIVE POINTS ARE EMERGING AS THE INFORMAL CONFERENCE AGENDA. CATTO

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